

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. Historic and projected lake levels are derived by the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada, under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). All of these publications can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology March 2009

The Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron basins received below average precipitation for March. Lake Erie saw precipitation that was almost 40% above average, while Lake Ontario received near average precipitation for March. All of the Great Lakes have experienced slightly above average precipitation over the past 12 months. The net supply of water to Lake Superior was above average for March, while Lake Michigan-Huron received near average water supplies. In addition, Lake Erie's net water supply was well above average in March, while Ontario received water supplies that were about average. The tables below list March precipitation and water supply information for the entire Great Lakes basin.

The March monthly mean water levels of Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 6 and 9 inches, respectively, lower than their long-term (1918-2008) monthly averages for March. Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 6, 10, and 9 inches, respectively, higher than their long-term averages. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to current conditions.

PROVISIONAL PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2009	Average (1900-2006)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2006)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.29	1.74	-0.45	74	31.81	30.45	1.36	104
Michigan-Huron	1.88	2.14	-0.26	88	34.80	32.30	2.50	108
Erie	3.81	2.73	1.08	140	38.03	35.28	2.75	108
Ontario	2.69	2.66	0.03	101	36.23	35.65	0.58	102
Great Lakes	2.08	2.16	-0.08	96	34.60	32.53	2.07	106

LAKE	March WATER SUPPLIES ² (CFS)		March OUTFLOW ³ (CFS)	
	2009 ¹	Average ⁵ (1900-1999)	2009 ¹	Average ⁴ (1900-1999)
Superior	52,000	46,000	55,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	185,000	184,000	158,000	171,000
Erie	127,000	72,000	218,000	194,000
Ontario	77,000	75,000	273,000	237,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2003, respectively

⁵ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989